

BOTANICAL/COMMERCIAL CLASSIFICATION*Senecio cruentus* x *Senecio heritieri*/Cineraria PlantVARIETAL DENOMINATIONcv. 'Sunsenerapi'

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## BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of *Senecio* genus plant named 'Sunsenerapi'.

10 'Sunsenerapi' is a distinct and unique variety, which is a dome-shaped plant of height with abundant branching, light purplish pink flowers, and a long blooming term.

There are many varieties in *Senecio* L. *Senecio cruentus* is well known as 'Cineraria' and cultivated in  
15 the world. There are many cultivated varieties with flowers of a single color of white, pink, red, blue or violet. Some varieties have marginal variegation with off color parts.

The female parent used in the crossing of  
20 'Sunsenerapi' is a clone of our own breeding line, *Senecio cruentus*, '8S-84e' (not patented in the United States), which is a compact, dome-shaped plant, 16 cm in height. The stems are thick, 8.0 mm in diameter, with no anthocyanin coloration. The leaf is of a serrated heart  
25 form and moderate yellow green. The leaf size is medium, 12.0 cm long, 12.5 cm wide. The flower is single flowered and has white petals with white disk flowers having no marginal variegation. '8S-84e' has some scent.

The pollen parent used in the crossing of  
30 'Sunsenerapi' is our breeding line, *Senecio heritieri* (not patented or sold in the United States), which was introduced from England at first. *Senecio heritieri* is a high and dome-shaped plant, 26 cm in height with abundant branching. Stems are 5.1 mm in diameter, with no  
35 anthocyanin coloration. The leaf is in a serrated heart form and light yellowish green. The leaf size is small, 5.5 cm long, 6.3 cm wide. The flower is single flowered,

having strong purple petals with vague white parts and strong reddish purple disk flowers. *Senecio heritieri* has no scent.

5 Progress

The controlled crossing with *Senecio cruentus* '8S-84e' and *Senecio heritieri* was conducted at Omori-cho, yokaichi-shi, Shiga, Japan in February, 1999. Seedlings from this crossing were grown since September, 1999. Four  
10 strains were selected in January 2000 among them in view of flower color and earliness. After multiplication by tissue culture, the botanical characteristics of the selected new strains were tested in pots since September 2000, using parent varieties and 'Sunsenere' (patented in  
15 the United States: No.PLANT12162, at 23.Oct.2001) and 'Midget' (not patented in the United States) for comparison, since 2000. As a result, one strain was selected and it is confirmed that the selected variety met our criteria of being uniform and stable in its  
20 characteristics.

Then this new variety of *Senecio* genus plant was named 'Sunsenerapi' (*Senecio cruentus* x *Senecio heritieri*)

*Senecio cruentus*, '8S-84e', and *Senecio heritieri*  
25 are presently maintained at the Omori-cho, Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.

In the following descriptions, the color-coding is in accordance with the Horticultural Colour Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (R.H.S.  
30 Colour Chart).

The botanical characteristics of the female parent plant *Senecio cruentus*, '8S-84e', used in the crossing of 'Sunsenerapi' are as follows.

35 Plant:

Growth habit - Dwarf compact

Height - 16 cm

Stem:

Thickness - 8.0 mm

Color - Moderate yellowish green (R.H.S.C.C.

No.139C)

5 Anthocyanin coloration - Absent

Branching - Fair

Pubescence - Sparse

Length of third internode below flag leaf - 0.5 cm

Leaf:

10 Whole shape - Heart form with a swollen basal part,  
which is notched at where the basal part of the blade  
attaches to the petiole.

Depth of concavity of leaf margin - Medium

Type of convexity - Acute

15 Apex shape - Obtuse

Base shape - Cordate

Degree of Undulation - Fair

Length - 12.0 cm

Width - 12.5 cm

20 Diameter of petiole - 5.0 mm

Length of petiole - 5.5 cm

Color of upper surface - Moderate yellow green  
(R.H.S.C.C. No.137C)

Color of reverse surface - Grayish yellow green

25 (R.H.S.C.C. No.138B)

Anthocyanin coloration of reverse surface - Absent

Pubescence of upper surface - Present

Pubescence of reverse surface - Dense

Color of pubescence of reverse surface - White

30 Flower (Single flowered):

Shape of flower cluster - Flat

Diameter of flower cluster - 20 cm

Height of flower cluster - 8 cm

Transected shape of corolla - Flat

35 Diameter of flower - 5.5 cm

Size of disk flower - 1.2 cm

Color of petal - White (R.H.S.C.C. No.155D)

- Marginal variegation - Absent  
Color of disk flower - White (R.H.S.C.C. No.155D)  
Petal length - 2.1 cm  
Petal width - 1.0 cm  
5 Shape of petal - Elliptical  
Lengthwise warp of petal - Flat  
Concavity of petal tip - Present  
Shape of petal tip - Rounded  
Number of ray flower - 13  
10 Number of disk flower - 105  
Diameter of pedicel of the first flower - 1.6 mm  
Length of pedicel of the first flower - 2.4 cm  
Number of flowers per a flower cluster - 75  
Scent - Present  
15 Calyx:  
Degree of concavity - Flat  
Degree of recurvature - 2.2 mm  
Color - Moderate yellow green (R.H.S.C.C. No.139C)  
Anthocyanin coloration - Absent  
20 Pistil:  
Color - Light yellow (R.H.S.C.C. No.11B)  
Number - 1  
Type - Style branches truncate (i.e. the top of the  
style is separated into two and the shape of the top is  
25 truncated)  
Stamen:  
Color - Brilliant yellow (R.H.S.C.C. No.12B)  
Type - 5 anthers are connate, with separated  
filaments  
30 Blooming period - January (Sowing in August)  
Hardiness:  
Cold - Good  
Rain - Good  
Heat - Good  
35 Resistance:  
Disease - Good  
Insect - Good

The botanical characteristics of the male parent plant *Senecio heritieri* used in the crossing of 'Sunsenerapi' are as follows.

5 Plant:

Growth habit - Dwarf compact

Height - 26 cm

Stem:

Thickness - 5.1 mm

10 Color - Very pale green (R.H.S.C.C. No.128D)

Anthocyanin coloration - Absent

Branching - Abundant

Type of primary lateral shoot - Branch from every node

15 Pubescence - Dense

Length of third internode below flag leaf - 0.8 cm

Leaf:

20 Whole shape - Heart form with a swollen basal part, which is notched at where the basal part of the blade attaches to the petiole.

Depth of concavity of leaf margin - Medium

Type of convexity - Acute

Apex shape - Obtuse

Base shape - Cordate

25 Degree of Undulation - Weak

Length - 5.5 cm

Width - 6.3 cm

Diameter of petiole - 4.2 mm

Length of petiole - 7.5 cm

30 Color of upper surface - Light yellowish green (R.H.S.C.C. No.136D)

Color of reverse surface - Very pale green (R.H.S.C.C. No.128D)

Anthocyanin coloration of reverse surface - Absent

35 Pubescence of upper surface - Dense

Pubescence of reverse surface - Dense

Color of pubescence of reverse surface - White

Flower (Single flowered):

- Shape of flower cluster - Uneven
- Diameter of flower cluster - 18 cm
- Height of flower cluster - 15 cm
- 5 Transected shape of corolla - Flat
- Diameter of flower - 4.8 cm
- Size of disk flower - 0.9 cm
- Color of petal - Strong purple (R.H.S.C.C. No.81B)
- Marginal variegation - Present
- 10 Diameter of off color part - 1.3 cm
- Border of marginal variegation - Vague
- Color of disk flower - Strong reddish purple  
(R.H.S.C.C. No.72A)
- Petal length - 2.2 cm
- 15 Petal width - 0.4 cm
- Shape of petal - Rectangular
- Lengthwise warp of petal - Flat
- Concavity of petal tip - Present
- Shape of petal tip - Acute
- 20 Number of ray flower - 13
- Number of disk flower - 110
- Diameter of pedicel of the first flower - 1.2 mm
- Length of pedicel of the first flower - 2.5 cm
- Number of flowers per a flower cluster - 35
- 25 Scent - Absent

Calyx:

- Degree of concavity - Flat
- Degree of recurvature - 3.1 mm
- Color - Very pale green (R.H.S.C.C. No.128D)
- 30 Anthocyanin coloration - Present

Pistil:

- Color - Strong reddish purple (R.H.S.C.C. No.72A)
- Number - 1
- Type - Style branches truncate (i.e. the top of the
- 35 style is separated into two and the shape of the top is  
truncated)

Stamen:

Color - Strong reddish purple (R.H.S.C.C. No.72A)

Type - 5 anthers are connate, with separated  
filaments

Blooming period - End of January (Sowing in August)

5 Hardiness:

Cold - Good

Rain - Good

Heat - Good

Resistance:

10 Disease - Good

Insect - Good

The botanical characteristics of a similar variety  
'Sunsenere' (*Senecio cruentus* x *Senecio heritieri*) which  
15 was patented in the United States, used for examination  
as a comparison variety are as follows.

Plant:

Growth habit - Semi-dwarf erect

Height - 25 cm

20 Stem:

Thickness - 5.0 mm

Color - Moderate yellowish green (R.H.S.C.C.  
No.139C)

25 Anthocyanin coloration - Present in parts of stem,  
e.g. can be seen at the part of peduncle.

Degree of anthocyanin coloration - It is light  
grayish olive (R.H.S.C.C. No.197A) at the part wherein  
anthocyanin is present, but it is moderate yellowish  
green (R.H.S.C.C. No.138C) at the part where anthocyanin  
30 is absent.

Branching - Abundant, i.e. 9 to 11 branches

Type of primary lateral shoot - Branch from every  
node

Pubescence - Sparse

35 Length of third internode below flag leaf - 1.0 cm

Leaf:

Whole shape - Heart form with a swollen basal part,

which is notched at where the basal part of the blade attaches to the petiole.

Depth of concavity of leaf margin - The maximum depth of concavity measured from the average convexity peak height is 7 mm.

Type of convexity - Acute

Apex shape - Obtuse

Base shape - Cordate

Degree of Undulation - Weak

Length - 8.6 cm

Width - 10.3 cm

Diameter of petiole - 3.2 mm

Length of petiole - 9.0 cm

Color of upper surface - Moderate yellow green

(R.H.S.C.C. No.137C)

Color of reverse surface - Moderate yellow green

(R.H.S.C.C. No.138C)

Anthocyanin coloration of reverse surface - Absent

Pubescence of upper surface - Dense

Pubescence of reverse surface - Dense

Color of pubescence of reverse surface - White

Flower (Single flowered):

Shape of flower cluster - Uneven

Diameter of flower cluster - 34 cm

Height of flower cluster - 22 cm

Transected shape of corolla - Flat

Diameter of flower - 6.4 cm

Size of disk flower - 1.3 cm

Color of petal - Vivid reddish purple (R.H.S.C.C.

No.78A)

Marginal variegation - Absent

Color of disk flower - Deep reddish purple

(R.H.S.C.C. No.80A)

Petal length - 2.6 cm

Petal width - 0.8 cm

Shape of petal - Rectangular

Lengthwise warp of petal - Flat



Concavity of patal tip - Present

Shape of petal tip - Acute

Number of ray flower - 15-16

Number of disk flower - 130

5 Diameter of pedicel of the first flower - 1.2 mm

Length of pedicel of the first flower - 3.3 cm

Number of flowers per a flower cluster - 88

Scent - Present

Calyx:

10 Degree of concavity - Flat

Degree of recurvature - 1.2 mm

Color - Very pale green (R.H.S.C.C. No.130D)

Anthocyanin coloration - Absent

Pistil:

15 Color - Vivid reddish purple (R.H.S.C.C. No.80A)

Number - 1

Type - Style branches truncate (i.e. the top of the style is separated into two and the shape of the top is truncated)

20 Stamen:

Color - Vivid reddish purple (R.H.S.C.C. No.80A)

Type - 5 anthers are connate, with separated filaments

Blooming period - Start at the end of November or early

25 December (cutting in July)

Hardiness:

Cold - Good

Rain - Good

Heat - Good

30 Resistance:

Disease - Good

Insect - Good

35 The botanical characteristics of a similar variety 'Midget', used for examination as a comparison variety are as follows.

Plant:

Growth habit - Dwarf

Height - 14 cm

Stem:

Thickness - 5.6 mm

5 Color - Moderate yellow green (R.H.S.C.C. No.139C)

Anthocyanin coloration - Present

Degree of anthocyanin coloration - Medium

Branching - Fair

Pubescence - Dense

10 Length of third internode below flag leaf - 0.5 cm

Leaf:

Whole shape - Heart form with a swollen basal part, which is notched at where the basal part of the blade attaches to the petiole.

15 Depth of concavity of leaf margin - Medium

Type of convexity - Acute

Apex shape - Acute

Base shape - Cordate

Degree of Undulation - Fair

20 Length - 13.9 cm

Width - 10.3 cm

Diameter of petiole - 4.2 mm

Length of petiole - 4.7 cm

Color of upper surface - Grayish yellow green

25 (R.H.S.C.C. No.138A)

Color of reverse surface - Grayish yellow green

(R.H.S.C.C. No.138B)

Anthocyanin coloration of reverse surface - Absent

Pubescence of upper surface - Present

30 Pubescence of reverse surface - Dense

Color of pubescence of reverse surface - White

Flower (Single flowered):

Shape of flower cluster - Flat

Diameter of flower cluster - 22 cm

35 Height of flower cluster - 8 cm

Transected shape of corolla - Fairly closed

Diameter of flower - 3.2 cm

- Size of disk flower - 0.8 cm  
Color of petal - Vivid reddish purple (R.H.S.C.C. No.74A)  
Marginal variegation - Absent
- 5      Color of disk flower - Strong reddish purple  
(R.H.S.C.C. No.72A)  
Petal length - 1.5 cm  
Petal width - 0.8 cm  
Shape of petal - Elliptical
- 10     Lengthwise warp of petal - Flat  
Concavity of petal tip - Present  
Shape of petal tip - Acute  
Number of ray flower - 13  
Number of disk flower - 86
- 15     Diameter of pedicel of the first flower - 1.5 mm  
Length of pedicel of the first flower - 2.5 cm  
Number of flowers per a flower cluster - 180  
Scent - Present
- Calyx:
- 20     Degree of concavity - Flat  
Degree of recurvature - 2.2 mm  
Color - Moderate yellow green (R.H.S.C.C. No.139C)  
Anthocyanin coloration - Absent
- Pistil:
- 25     Color - Strong reddish purple (R.H.S.C.C. No.72A)  
Number - 1  
Type - Style branches truncate (i.e. the top of the style is separated into two and the shape of the top is truncated)
- 30     Stamen:  
Color - Strong reddish purple (R.H.S.C.C. No.72A)  
Type - 5 anthers are connate, with separated filaments
- Blooming period - January (Sowing in August)
- 35     Hardiness:  
Cold - Good  
Rain - Good

Heat - Good

Resistance:

Disease - Good

Insect - Good

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#### SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

'Sunsenerapi' is a dome-shaped plant of height (average height of 31.8 cm in the blooming period). There is a branch from every node and branching is abundant, i.e. 9 to 11 branches. The stem is 4.8 mm in diameter with few pubescences.

The leaves are small, 13.9 cm long, 9.7 cm wide. The leaves are shaped in a serrated heart form with a swollen basal part, which is notched at where the basal part of the blade attaches to the petiole. The leaf color is moderate olive green, with no anthocyanin coloration on the reverse side. Pubescence on both sides of leaf is dense. The petiole is 10.0 cm long and 3.4 mm in diameter.

The new variety has large flower cluster which are high and uneven in shape (i.e. the locations of the individual flowers forming the cluster are uneven or not flat). A flower cluster means a gathering of heads in a plant of the new variety. A head is a flower consisting of a disk and a plurality of petals, i.e. ray flowers. The flower is single flowered with no marginal variegation. The corolla has a flat transected shape (i.e. when the corolla opens, petals are flat when viewed from the side). The flower is 6.7 cm in diameter, while the disk flower is 1.3 cm in diameter. The petals is 3.1 cm long and 0.8 cm wide. The color of the petal is light purplish pink (R.H.S.C.C. No.75C), while the color of the disk is strong reddish purple (R.H.S.C.C. No.77B). One flower has 13 ray flowers and 167 disk flowers. A ray flower has a pistil, but no stamen. A disk flower is tubular and has a pistil and a stamen formed by 5 connate anthers with separated filaments. 155 flowers are in a

flower cluster. The degree of recurvature of calyx is 2.0 mm. The calyx is flat and has no anthocyanin coloration. Pedicel is 3.9 cm long and 1.2 mm in diameter. The flowers have some scent.

5           Blooming period is medium and blooming term is long. After cutting in July, flowers start to bloom at the end of the January in Omori-cho, Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan. The blooming continues from January to May, if under appropriate control. Around a temperature of 15°C,  
10   the individual bloom lasts two weeks. The flower buds grow one after another from the axil. The flower is not self-cleaning because petals remain attached in a wilted and dry state as the flower fully matures.

          The new variety has moderate cold hardiness and  
15   resistance to heat. The new variety does not die at around 0°C, but when frost occurs the cells can be necrosed resulting in the death of the plant. Usually, *Senecio cruentus* has a tendency of slightly reduced growth in a hot season, whereas the new variety has no  
20   problem in growing in the hot season.

          The fertility of the new variety is low. Generally, *Senecio* genus plants have high fertility (i.e. bear many seeds per flower). In contrast, 'Sunsenerapi' bears no seed or very few seeds per flower. When no seed is  
25   formed, there is a part corresponding to a seed coat, which remains in an immature state, i.e. without embryo and endosperm inside the immature seed coat.

          The new variety, 'Sunsenerapi', differs from similar  
30   varieties, 'Sunsenere' and 'Midget', of the *Senecio* genus and from parent varieties *Senecio heritieri* and '8S-84e' in the following points.

          1. 'Sunsenerapi' is a high type plant, 31.8 cm in height. 'Sunsenere' is a high type plant, 25 cm in  
35   height. 'Midget' is a compact type plant, 14 cm in height. The pollen parent *Senecio heritieri* is a semi-

compact type plant, 26 cm in height and female plant '8S-84e' is a compact type plant, 16 cm in height.

2. The flower of 'Sunsenerapi' has light purplish pink petals, strong reddish purple disk flowers and no marginal variegation. That of 'Sunsenere' has vivid reddish purple petals, deep reddish purple disk flowers and no marginal variegation. That of 'Midget' has vivid reddish purple petals, strong reddish purple disk flowers and no marginal variegation. That of female parent '8S-84e' has white petals, white disk and no marginal variegation. That of pollen parent *Senecio heritierii* has strong purple petals, strong reddish purple disk flowers and white marginal part.

3. The petiole length of 'Sunsenerapi' is longer than that of 'Sunsenere' or 'Midget'.

4. 'Sunsenerapi' has more pubescence of stems than that of 'Sunsenere' and fewer than that of 'Midget'.

5. The blooming term of 'Sunsenerapi' is longer than that of 'Midget'.

6. The fertility of 'Sunsenerapi' is lower than that of 'Midget'.

The plant height and flower color are most distinctive characteristics of this new variety, 'Sunsenerapi'.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Fig.1 is a photograph giving a partial view of the new variety of *Senecio* genus plant named 'Sunsenerapi' planted in a pot.

Fig.2 is a photograph of flowers of the new variety of *Senecio* genus plant named 'Sunsenerapi'.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The botanical characteristics of this new and distinct variety of *Senecio* genus plant named 'Sunsenerapi' 7 months after cutting in July are as follows (i.e. these botanical characteristics were

observed in January of the year following the cutting with the new variety planted in a 15 cm pot and grown in a greenhouse, the lowest temperature of which was controlled at 12°C in winter).

5 Plant:

Growth habit - Semi-dwarf erect

Height - 31.8 cm

Spread - 35 cm

Stem:

10 Thickness - 4.8 mm

Color - Very pale green (R.H.S.C.C. No.130D)

Anthocyanin coloration - Absent

Branching - Abundant, i.e. 9 to 11 branches

15 Type of primary lateral shoot - Branch from every node

Pubescence - Medium

Length of third internode below flag leaf - 1.8 cm

Leaf:

20 Whole shape - Heart form with a swollen basal part, which is notched at where the basal part of the blade attaches to the petiole.

Depth of concavity of leaf margin - The maximum depth of concavity measured from the average convexity peak height is 5 mm.

25 Type of convexity - Acute

Apex shape - Acute

Base shape - Cordate

Degree of Undulation - Weak

Length - 13.9 cm

30 Width - 9.7 cm

Diameter of petiole - 3.4 mm

Length of petiole - 10.0 cm

Color of upper surface - Moderate olive green  
(R.H.S.C.C. No.146A)

35 Color of reverse surface - Moderate yellow green  
(R.H.S.C.C. No.147D)

Anthocyanin coloration of reverse surface - Absent

Pubescence of upper surface - Sparse

Pubescence of reverse surface - Dense

Color of pubescence of reverse surface - White

Flower (Single flowered):

5 Shape of flower cluster - Round

Diameter of flower cluster - 34 cm

Height of flower cluster - 22 cm

Transected shape of corolla - Flat

Diameter of flower - 6.7 cm

10 Size of disk flower - 1.3 cm

Color of petal - Light purplish pink (R.H.S.C.C.

No.75C)

Marginal variegation - Absent

Color of disk flower - Strong reddish purple

15 (R.H.S.C.C. No.77B)

Petal length - 3.1 cm

Petal width - 0.8 cm

Shape of petal - Long oblong

Lengthwise warp of petal - Flat

20 Concavity of petal tip - Present

Shape of petal tip - Acute

Number of ray flower - 13

Number of disk flower - 167

Diameter of pedicel of the first flower - 1.2 mm

25 Length of pedicel of the first flower - 3.9 cm

Number of flowers per a flower cluster - 155

Scent - Present

Calyx:

Degree of concavity - Flat

30 Degree of recurvature - 2.0 mm

Color - Moderate yellow green (R.H.S.C.C. No.139C)

Anthocyanin coloration - Absent

Pistil:

Color - Vivid purple (R.H.S.C.C. No.82A)

35 Number - 1

Type - Style branches truncate (i.e. the top of the style is separated into two and the shape of the top is



truncated)

Stamen:

Color - Dark yellow (R.H.S.C.C. No.153B)

5      Type - 5 anthers are connate, with separated  
filaments

Blooming period - Start at the end of January (cutting in  
July)

Hardiness:

10      Cold - Good

Rain - Good

Heat - Good

Resistance:

Disease - Good

Insect - Good

15      The new variety and *Senecio cruentus* have similar  
resistance to powdery mildew, leaf spot, aphid, whitefly,  
and thrips. The new variety, 'Sunsenerapi', is a tall  
type plant and most suitable for flower potting.

20      This new and distinct variety of *Senecio* genus plant  
named 'Sunsenerapi' was asexually reproduced by cutting  
at Omori-cho, Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan and the  
homogeneity and stability thereof were confirmed.